

those agriculture products where meth-
 yl bromide is eliminated. It would de-
 stroy Florida agriculture; not just to-
 matoes but winter vegetables in gen-
 eral.

So it is very important to work with
 us on that issue. They have beat us up
 with the Mexican tomatoes, so why can
 they not allow us something to give
 the farmer. The minimum wage will
 hurt our tomato farmers, so we need to
 see what can be done.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming
 my time, I am glad the gentleman
 brought these points out because this
 is a half billion dollar industry for
 Florida and there are a lot of folks who
 have nothing else. This is what they
 do. They are small farms. They have
 been growing for years and genera-
 tions, and they are being displaced and
 the administration is not keeping the
 promises it made to help in the en-
 forcement and the side agreements on
 the NAFTA compact.

It is quite clear the Mexicans, indeed,
 are dumping. They are selling below
 cost. This is putting our farmers at an
 unfair disadvantage. And I believe if
 they comply with the laws of NAFTA
 that our farmers can beat the socks off
 the Mexicans, but they have both got
 to play by the same rules.

TIME TO DISCUSS TRULY CRITI- CAL EVENTS OF 104TH CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a
 previous order of the House, the gentle-
 woman from Connecticut [Ms.
 DELAURO] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I think
 that in these closing days of this Con-
 gress, it is particularly important that
 what we try to do is to organize the re-
 maining time that we have to discuss
 the truly critical events of this 104th
 Congress. Quite honestly, that has not
 always been easy to do, and time and
 again in the Gingrich Congress Mem-
 bers have been gagged and have been
 unable to talk about truly critical
 events.

In fact, this week we mark an anni-
 versary. A year ago, Democrats were
 forced to go out onto the lawn in front
 of the Capitol to hold a hearing on the
 cuts in Medicare that were proposed by
 Speaker GINGRICH and the House Re-
 publican leadership. We held these
 hearings out on the lawn, and my col-
 leagues will recall that we did that be-
 cause the committees of jurisdiction
 were only going to hold one hearing.

I repeat: One hearing on their pro-
 posal to devastate Medicare with a \$270
 billion cut, a cut, I might add, that was
 going to be used to pay for something
 coined the crown jewel of the Contract
 With America. And that was a tax cut,
 as it turned out, where we saw a tax
 cut for the most privileged people in
 our country.

On that day, while we held these
 hearings on the lawn, to give a full air-
 ing to the impact of these cuts, we had
 a number of stalwart seniors who pro-
 tested at the sham hearing that was

being held. Those seniors, and some-
 times we forget past events, those sen-
 iors were arrested.

So, sadly, the history of this Con-
 gress has been a relentless attempt to
 keep the truth from coming out about
 the impact of some of these proposals.

It is particularly important to note
 and to talk about again because what
 we are seeing in a proposal that has
 been offered by the standard bearer for
 the Republican Party, by Bob Dole, his
 economic plan, which, if we take a hard
 look at it could have devastating im-
 pact on Medicare.

We also need in this context to recall
 what Senator Dole said about his own
 vote on Medicare, and I quote. Being
 only 1 of 12, proud to have been 1 of 12
 who voted against the creation of Medi-
 care because, he said, and again I
 quote, we knew it would not work. End
 quote.

So Senator Dole has a track record
 on Medicare that seniors need to be in-
 formed about. Their families need to be
 informed about this track record. And,
 frankly, they need to be concerned
 about it.

Under the Gingrich-Dole plan, Medi-
 care could be cut by as much as \$300
 billion by the year 2002, even more
 than what NEWT GINGRICH and this Re-
 publican Congress tried to cut in 1995.
 If my colleagues will recall, that num-
 ber was \$270 billion, and no coincidence
 between the number 270 in Medicare
 cuts and the \$245 billion that they
 wanted to provide in tax breaks for the
 wealthiest Americans.

So if we take a look at what this \$300
 billion means to seniors, it means even
 higher out-of-pocket costs and lower
 quality health care for seniors. These
 Medicare cuts would help to pay for a
 tax plan in which more than 40 percent
 of the benefits would go to the wealth-
 est 5 percent of Americans.

And the best evidence of how we
 would treat Medicare is what Repub-
 licans proposed to do to Medicare when
 they took over the Congress in 1995,
 and it is worth repeating.

First, they proposed cutting \$270 bil-
 lion from Medicare to pay for a \$245 bil-
 lion tax cut for the wealthy.

□ 2045

Second, they proposed policy changes
 that would have doubled premiums and
 would have reduced senior's choice of a
 doctor. Third, they proposed creating
 risky medical savings accounts that
 would skim the healthy and the
 wealthy out of traditional Medicare,
 thereby weakening the system and in-
 creasing premiums for those who re-
 mained in the program.

Let me quote to you Dr. Joseph
 White from the Brookings Institution,
 a nonpartisan Washington think tank.
 He said recently, "I have to look at the
 numbers, at the campaign statements
 and at what then Senator Dole and his
 colleagues supported in 1995 and I have
 to conclude that the risks to Medicare
 from candidate Dole's economic pro-
 gram are substantial."

Finally I want to point out that this
 assault on Medicare is part of a larger
 attack on America's retirement secu-
 rity. Think about it. When Americans
 look forward to retirement, the three
 pillars of a secure retirement that they
 can count on are Medicare, private pen-
 sions and nursing home care. These
 were all under attack in 1995.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr.
 ROTH). Under a previous order of the
 House, the gentleman from Virginia
 [Mr. WOLF] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. WOLF addressed the House. His
 remarks will appear hereafter in the
 Extensions of Remarks.]

TRIBUTE TO WALTER "CHICK" HOLTkamp

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a
 previous order of the House, the gen-
 tleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE] is recog-
 nized for 5 minutes.

MEDICARE

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, before I
 begin, I yield to the gentleman from
 Georgia [Mr. KINGSTON].

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I
 thank the gentleman from Ohio. I
 wanted to show this chart, which ap-
 parently the previous speaker might
 not have read the bill, but it does show
 clearly that the Republican plan,
 which is a reaction to the Clinton
 trustees saying that Medicare is going
 bankrupt, our plan to strengthen, save,
 and preserve Medicare is very much on
 target and increases the amount per re-
 cipient from about \$5,200 to over \$7,000.
 In my neck of the woods and I think in
 Ohio that is not considered a cut. I
 know here in Lala land, Washington,
 DC, you can call anything a cut, just as
 you can call Clinton a conservative.

Mr. HOKE. Is there a rule that you
 have to be truthful on the floor in what
 is said.

Mr. KINGSTON. Not that I know of.
 But the fact is that this is available
 publicly. What is very important is
 that we do Medicare on a bipartisan
 basis. It is not time to scare the sen-
 iors. It is not time to bring out all the
 demagoguery and partisan politics. It
 is time only to save the program for
 your mom and dad.

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the
 gentleman from Georgia for pointing
 that out.

I rise, Mr. Speaker, tonight to recog-
 nize one of northeast Ohio's leading
 citizens, Mr. Walter "Chick"
 Holtkamp. Chick is the retiring CEO of
 the Holtkamp Organ Co., our Nation's
 leading manufacturer of pipe organs. It
 is my purpose tonight to pay tribute to
 the all-inspiring contributions that he
 has made to his craft. On October 28,
 1996, in Cleveland, OH, a gala in Chick
 Holtkamp's honor aptly dubbed
 chickfest is bringing together the
 world's foremost organists, composers,
 and artisans of the trade to recognize
 Chick Holtkamp and his remarkable
 career.